



07-28-03

GP/1772

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Date 7/24/03 Label No. W340066167-US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, this paper or fee was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service & that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 2309/012400

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Satoshi MIZUTANI et al.

Serial No.: 09/771,131

Confirmation No.: 6716

Filed: January 26, 2001

For: TOP SHEET FOR ABSORBENT ARTICLES, AND METHOD FOR  
PRODUCING IT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a  
copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

All of these documents were either 1) not cited in a foreign  
counterpart of this application and not known for more than three months, or 2)  
were first cited in a foreign counterpart of this application not more than three

months ago.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The undersigned is also enclosing herewith a copy of a Search Report issued June 13, 2003 for the European counterpart of the present patent application (Application No. 01300812.3-2124), in which the presently disclosed references were cited. Since a translation of the Search Report is also enclosed, or the Search Report utilizes conventional codes to characterize each cited reference, it is believed that the applicants in the above-identified patent application have now met the "concise explanation" requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.98.

A concise explanation of the relevance of the foreign language

documents as required by 37 CFR 1.98 is attached. On information and belief, this concise explanation is from the point of view of that person identified in 37 CFR 1.56 who is most familiar with the subject matter.

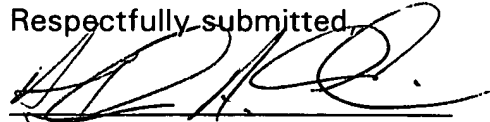
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

It is believed that no fee is due. However, if the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 04-0100 for any deficiency.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Dated: July 24, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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Serial No. 09/771,131

Docket No. 2309/01213

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/771,131
				Filing Date	January 26, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Satoshi Mizutani
				Art Unit	1772
				Examiner Name	A. Chevalier
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	2309/01213US0

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	US 4,327,730	05-04-1982	Sorenson	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	BA	WO 94/20054	09-15-1994	Mölnlycke		
	BB	JP 61056645	03-22-1986	Kao Corp.		✓
	BC	EP 0958802 A2	11-24-1999	Uni-Charm Corporation		
	BD	EP 1201213 A2	05-02-2002	Uni-Charm Corporation		
	BE	EP 1110526 A2	06-27-2001	Uni-Charm Corporation		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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